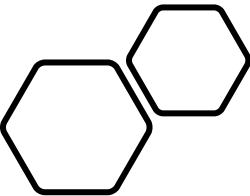


Lesson 3 for  
January 15, 2021

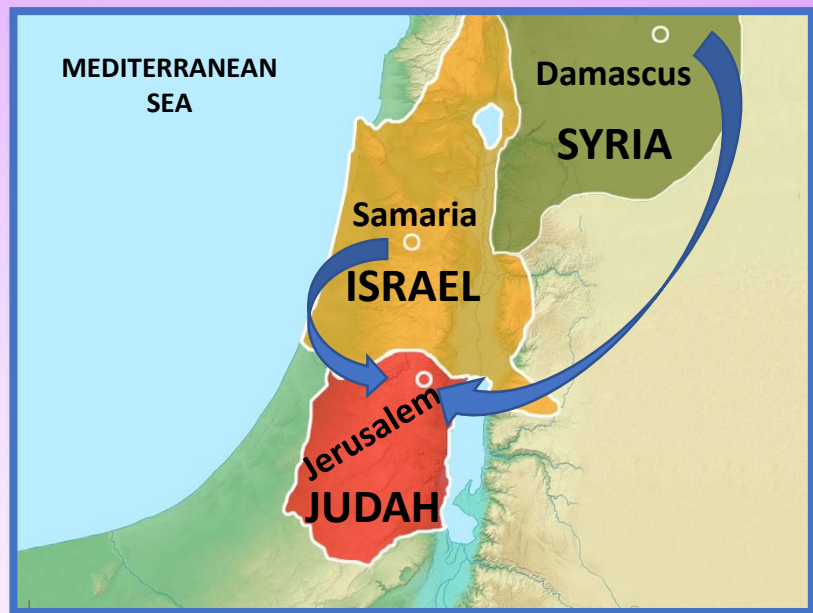


WHEN  
YOUR  
WORLD IS  
FALLING  
APART



Put yourself in King Ahaz's shoes. Your kingdom is weak, and another kingdom that is stronger than you joins forces with a third kingdom to wage war you. What could you do?

Ahaz's world was about to fall apart, so he needed a powerful ally to overcome this dangerous situation. Who could he trust?



- ◆ Dangerous times. Isaiah 7:1-2
- ◆ Believe to be established. Isaiah 7:3-9
- ◆ Ask for a sign. Isaiah 7:10-13
- ◆ The sign: a virgin and a child. Isaiah 7:14
- ◆ Immanuel, "God with us". Isaiah 7:14

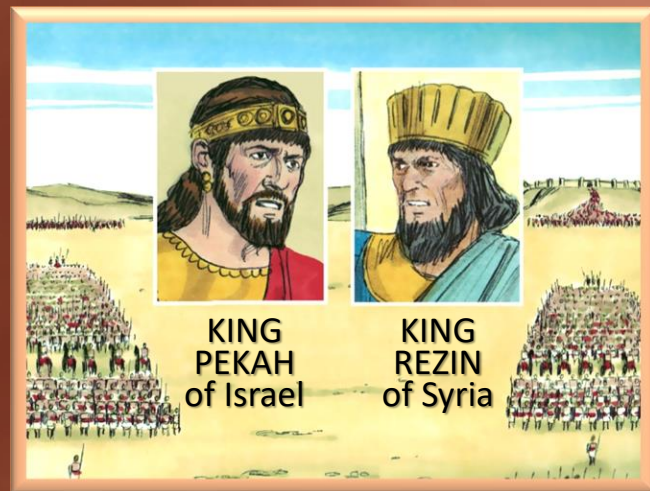
# DANGEROUS TIMES

"And it was told to the house of David, saying, 'Syria's forces are deployed in Ephraim.' So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind." (Isaiah 7:2)

Those weren't good times for the kingdom of Judah. Edom and the Philistines were troubling them (2Chr. 28:17-18). Besides, the kings of Israel and Syria joined forces to overthrow Ahaz and to crown the son of Tabeal as a stooge (Is. 7:6).

They did that to become stronger because Assyria was becoming a serious threat. They were boosting their military power under the reign of Tiglath-Pileser III.

Impious King Ahaz asked Assyria for help. It looked like a good idea then, but this plan backfired (2K. 16:9; 2Chr. 28:20).



KING PEKAH  
of Israel

KING REZIN  
of Syria

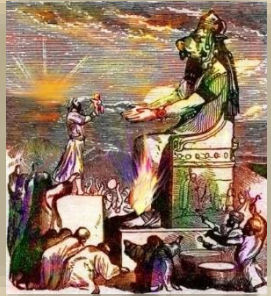


TIGLATH-PILESER III  
King of Assyria



# BELIEVE TO BE ESTABLISHED

**"If you will not believe, surely you shall not be established." (Isaiah 7:9)**



**Why did God let Judah endure so many troubles (2Chr. 28:5, 19)?**

**Ahaz took his impiety to the extreme. He was the first king of Judah to sacrifice his own son to the idols (2K. 16:3). God let all those difficulties happen so he could reconsider his excessive madness.**

**Isaiah visited Ahaz along with his son Shear-Jashub ("A remnant shall return"). He gave the king a message of hope and begged him to trust God's power (Isaiah 7:3-4).**

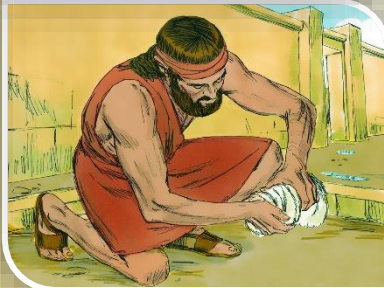
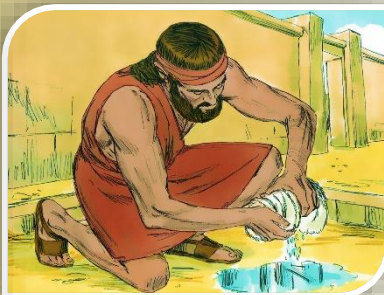
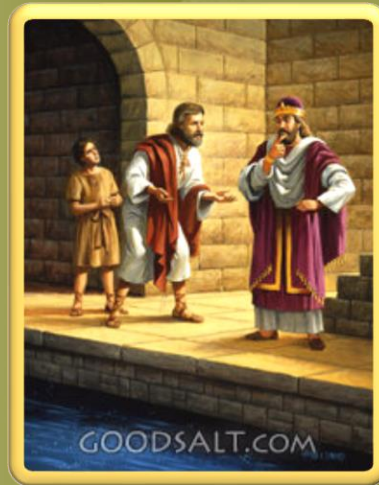
**Those dangerous kings (Pekah and Rezin) were just smoke for God. If Ahaz trusted God, his kingdom would stand (Isaiah 7:5-7, 9).**



# ASK FOR A SIGN

“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.’” (Isaiah 7:11-12 NIV)

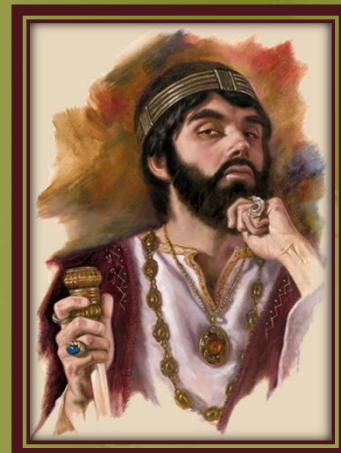
God’s power was at the disposal of an impious human being, “Ask for anything you want to”. God was willing to give Ahaz anything he asked, because He wanted to light his heart with faith so he would return to Him.



But Ahaz didn’t want God to help him. He closed the doors of his heart to faith.

Since Ahaz had rejected God, Isaiah stopped talking about “your God.” He reproached Ahaz for disturbing “my God” (Is. 7:11, 13).

The king of Judah rejected God, but God didn’t reject His people.



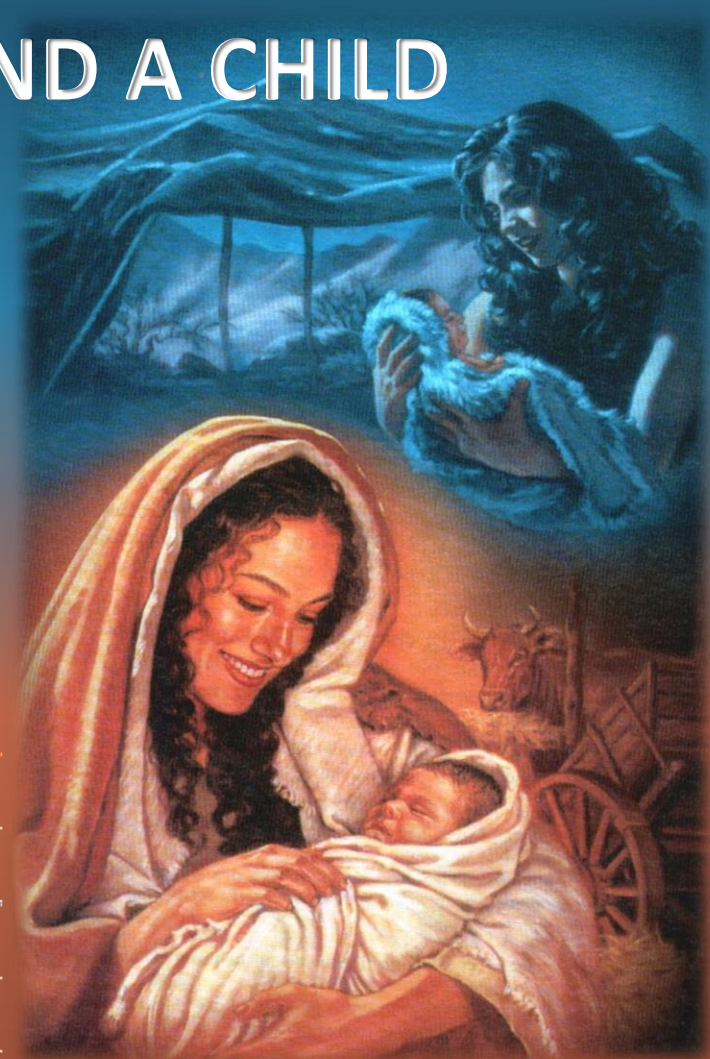
# THE SIGN: A VIRGIN AND A CHILD

**“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son [...]”  
(Isaiah 7:14)**

God chose the sign Himself. In two years (before a child was conceived, born, and mature enough to be able to distinguish between good and evil), the two enemy kings would no longer exist (Isaiah 7:14-16).

The word “virgin” used in this verse doesn’t imply sexual virginity, but youth. Therefore, the immediate and future fulfillments of the prophecy is clear:

<b>The</b>	<b>Immediate:</b> Isaiah’s wife (Is. 8:3-4)
<b>mother:</b>	<b>Future:</b> Mary (Mt. 1:20-23)
<b>The son:</b>	<b>Immediate:</b> Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (Is. 8:1,18)
	<b>Future:</b> Jesus (Lk. 1:31)



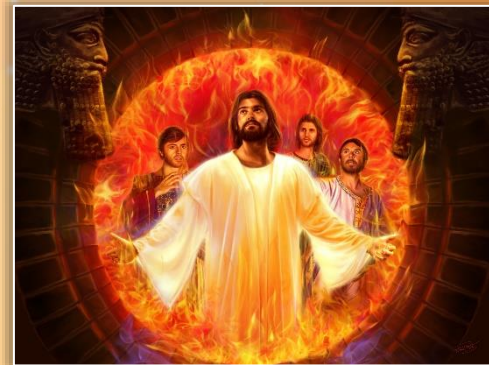
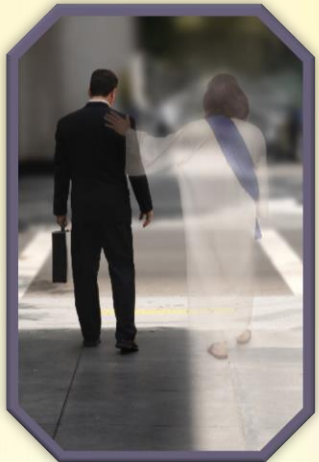
# IMMANUEL, "GOD WITH US"

**"[...] and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)**

**"The name Immanuel was a sign name ordained of God to testify of His purpose for Judah at this time [...] The Immanuel sign would testify to God's presence with His people to guide, to protect, and to bless." (SDA Bible Commentary, on Isaiah 7:14).**

**Beyond the immediate and future fulfillments of the prophecy, it's also a universal promise: God is always with us, even when we're going through hard times.**

**The same God that was with Jacob in his tribulation (Gn. 32:24-30) and with the three young Hebrew men in the fire (Daniel 3:23-27) has promised to be with us too.**



**“Emmanuel, God with us.’ This means everything to us. What a broad foundation does it lay for our faith! What a hope big with immortality does it place before the believing soul! God with us in Christ Jesus to accompany us every step of the journey to heaven!”**

E.G.W. (God’s Amazing Grace, July 12)